engines and industrial action.

THE COLLAPSE of the Northern Ireland Executive and the resignation of Chief Executive Brian Faulkner last Tuesday was a victory for the Ulster Workers Council's general strike. This victory brings no comfort to the mass of trade unionists in Britain and Ireland.

It has been a reactionary strike. The long-term aim of the Ulster Workers Council is to restore full Protestant supremacy in Northern Ireland. The Council wants to go back to the days when Protestants had first pick of jobs and opportunities.

They want to continue the organised system of state repression against Catholics.

They want to continue the reality behind the appeals of Ulster Guerrilla and other members of the Ulster Workers Council to British trade unionists for support and solidarity with the strike.

They demand support. The society they want is one where one trade union is better off than another because of his religion.

ACTION

It is tragic that a movement which has demonstrated the immense power of the working class has been directed to this reactionary end. Tragic, because the Ulster Workers Council and its supporters have proved that mass working-class action can do what all the bombings and assassinations have failed to do.

It is paradoxical that a government which has been backed by the biggest concentration of troops and police in the United Kingdom armed with savage special powers and supported by all the establishments—churches, Tory, Labour and Liberal—yet this tremendous solidarity is directed towards sectarian ends.

A third of the workers—the Catholics—play no part in it.

The British Labour government, whipped on by its supporters in the Northern Ireland government—the Social Democratic and Labour Party—sent in troops to distribute fuel and break the strike.

Many Labour supporters in Britain said British troops should be used to break the strike completely, and to persuade the Ulster Workers Council.

These people agree that the religious extremism of workers in Northern Ireland is due to the "backwardness" of the Irish people.

PROFITS

On the contrary. The divisions are the direct result of the exploitation of religious differences by the British rulers of Ireland over the past 200 years.

Time and again the British have banned the names of Protestant extremism in order to divide the Irish people and make the plunder of Ireland that much easier.

Now there are more profits to be made in the South of Ireland than in the North. So even Protestant gangs on the streets of Belfast are an embarrassment to British industrialists. These industrialists support a government of middle-class Catholics and Tory Protestants which they hope would hold the workers down with the help of British troops.

That was the Sunningdale Agreement. That's what Wilson and Co. wanted to defend against the sectarian Ulster Workers Council.

That too offered no comfort to Irish workers. It did not ensure an end to bigotry and religious differences. That is why socialists and trade unionists had to oppose the breaking of the strike by the use of troops and governments which instituted sectarianism in the first place.

So what can socialists and trade unionists in Britain do now?

They can concentrate all their efforts on getting the troops out of Ireland.

Well-meaning people are persuaded that only the presence of British troops prevents pogroms, massacres and religious civil war.

In truth, the troops stoke up the hatred. They foster the illusion that a Protestant-dominated statelet can survive for ever. Extremist Protestants gain confidence from their presence. And the longer it all goes on, the more bitter the sectarian confrontation at the end of it.

The problems of Ireland will only be solved by Irish men and women. The one great contribution we can make in Britain is to force the withdrawal of British troops.

...and off the streets of Colchester too!
The British in Ireland

Law and order meant terror

WHEN the Liberal government tried to pass the 1914-18 Ulster (Army Reserve) Act, it was clear that the Irish Labour movement could organize a large number of Ulster workers against it. The TORY Party and its rich financiers supported the formation of the illegal Ulster Volunteers.

IT WAS TRUE THEN... AND IT'S TRUE NOW

WHEN the idea of dividing Ireland into two separate states—Northern Protestant North and the rural, predominantly Catholic South—was first suggested, many nationalists argued it would turn Ulster into a "better off" with Britain anyway. Some Connolly argued passionately against this move. He wrote that he would rather the whole Home Rule Bill had never been passed than to have it carried by Ulster or any part of Ulster left out. In the Irish Worker of 14 March 1914 he wrote about partition:

Such a scheme... the betrayal of the largest movement of industrial Ulster, would mean a carnival of reaction North and South would not accept. The wheels of progress would grind to a halt; the enormous prestige of the Irish Labour movement and paralysis of all advanced movements would be assured.

And in Forward on 21 March 1914, he wrote:

Such a scheme would destroy the hopes of the masses by disrupting it. It would perpetuate in a form more oppressive and more intolerable than ever the one which created the public as the political watchwords of the day. In short, it would make the division... more intolerable.

The Front's reactions were near-hysterical. One young man who was given out the leaflets was forced to get into NF parliamentary candidate Michael Lobb's white Rover car and take down to the police station. Five NF heavies threatened one docker and forced him to give up the leaflets on a council estate.

Lobb's firm took vigorous protest against the "unfounded" smear on its organisation. The support of the local newspapers—Newham Recorder, was immediately turned against the NF. Dockers' leaflet unmasked the racists.

Attacks and smears on the National Front'

LAW and order' Lobb told the Recorder that he had proof that young schoolchildren were being paid to distribute the leaflets.

The reason Lobb jumped to this absurd conclusion about his opponents is simple. He uses such methods himself. He pays young schoolchildren to spread lies and make his dirty work for him.

The boy—whose name we are witholding so he does not get into trouble with the school authorities—admitted to Michael Lobb that he was "watching for leaflets" and "look out for the following visitors":

All this has been reported to the police, who have placed no interest in the matter. But they are looking into complaints against socialists in Newham and order lovers, the National Front.

Dockers' leaflet unmask the racists.
subservience. The electoral boundaries were rigged to ensure that even in Derry, where the vast majority of the population were Catholic, the Protestants held control. Catholics were ruthlessly discriminated against in houses and in jobs.

A terrorist squad of special police, called the 'Specials', was created in order to keep the Catholics down. In 1922, the B- and other Protestant gangs, aided by British troops, ran riot through the Catholic areas, killing 350 people, wounded more than 1000 and causing more than £3 million worth of damage.

Workers kept divided

EVERY TIME the workers of Northern Ireland have threatened to unite across the religious divide, the British and Northern Ireland government promoted an orgy of Orange violence.

An unemployed workers' demonstration which united Belfast Catholics and Protestants in 1932 was put down by British troops, who shot two workers and wounded 55.

In 1935, the regime again unleashed its thugs and bully-boys on the Catholic areas. Twelve Catholics were killed, 500 more injured and 500 Catholic homes were burnt down.

John Andrews, Prime Minister 1940-1943: 'I have investigated the 31 porters employed at the newly opened parliament buildings at Stormont. I have found that there are 30 Protestants and only one Roman Catholic—there temporarily.' (Belfast Newsletter, 13 July, 1933)

The British Tory government refused even to set up an inquiry into these outrages. The sectarian Orange state with its racist special police, its gerrymandered voting system and periodic mass murders was supported outright by British government in London and Tory.

In 1924, Labour's Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald helped fix the Irish border with the Orange moguls, Sir James Craig. In 1949, Labour's Government of Ireland Act wrote the Orange state into the law of the land.

Labour politicians agreed with the Tories that the people of Northern Ireland had a 'democratic right' to their sectarian state.

But a state which is set up on the basis of a racist gerrymander is not a religious group by another is the opposite of democracy. It means the permanent persecution of the minority.

Then things changed

IN THE 1950s and 1960s, the economic situation in Ireland gradually changed. The old industries of the North started to die. The profits from linen and shipbuilding fell.

At the same time, British investment in the South was on the increase. By 1965, when Britain's Prime Minister Macmillan was on a visit to Northern Ireland, the Irish Prime Minister Sean Lemass, himself a former linen merchant, was more to be made for British industrialists and financiers in the South than there was in the North.

In that situation, therefore, the British and Irish governments became an embarrassment to the British.

There was no longer any need to divide Ireland up into the rich part (British) and the poor part (Irish).

Now the British government and the Catholic workers were in the same boats, both facing the threat of redundancy and mass redundancies by British companies who had become part of transnational corporations.

So the British government tried to contain the fury of the Catholic minority—by persecuting the IRA. At the same time it told the Protestants:

"All this propaganda which we have found you只好 500 years—that your theory that you are better than the Catholics, that you should get better jobs and schools and houses and the Catholics—that's all a load of rubbish. You have to get rid of that now, and learn to live together as equals."

For 50 years the Protestant workers of Northern Ireland had been encouraged to put up with the worst wages, the worst unemployment and the worst housing conditions in the United Kingdom.

Their only cause of comfort was that they were Protestants and supported as such by the British government. Their jobs and pensions and murders were part of being Protestant.

Now the British government was offering them the same wages, the same unemployment and the same housing—and were taking away their privileges as Protestants.

It does not work. You cannot encourage sectarian thuggery for 400 years, and then switch it off with a tap.

You cannot understand an Orange statellite in which Catholics are deprived of their rights for 50 years as the British Labour Party did—and then whine on television about people who deprive a third of the population of their rights.

The Protestants want the same wage, the same unemployment and the same housing. They are prepared to use everything at their disposal to get it back.

This deeply reactionary movement will not be put down by hypocrisy or rhetoric on television. It will never be won round to 'moderate' opinion, which has nothing to offer the Protestant workers but 'moderate' exploitation.

Lord Craigavon, Prime Minister 1921-1940: "This is a Protestant parliament for a Protestant people."

TERENCE O'NEILL, Prime Minister 1963-1969: In 1969, his wife advertised in the press for a 'Protestant girl' to be a housemaid.

It will only be defeated by socialist argument and organisation within the Irish working-class movement. It will only be defeated by constant and daily comparing the illusory economic advantages of Protestant supremacy with the enormous advantages which can be won if the workers act together.

It will only be defeated by consistently arguing that the real advantage of the type of which is now being taken in the North of Ireland could be won for the whole new world for the Irish people.

Reactive political forces and working-class movement will never be defeated by the state machine which promised them in the first place. It will only be defeated by consistent socialist argument and organisation within the working class.

A thundering silence from the Republicans

IN THE middle of the biggest political crisis in Ireland this century, the Official Republican Headquarters at the heart of the Bogside, Derry, was closed on Monday on account of the Whittier hunger strike, it was explained.

A more likely explanation is that the Official Republicans have no policy whatever on the strike and so no reason to open up shop.

From the socialist point of view the most significant sound in Derry is the thundering silence from the national leaders of both the Official Republicans and the Provisionals. To date no authoritative statement has issued from either.

Half a dozen of the most active Officials in Derry have resigned in the past few weeks.

Terry Robson, the editor of the local Republican paper, The Starry Plough, says: 'The attitude of the Provisionals is just bewildered. We have been told for five years to campaign for our rights. Anyone who wanted to go deeper was drummed out by the leadership. Now those who were loyal to the leadership are left to drift and organise on their own. I've got out when I found I was avoiding people who might ask me what our line was.

In a sense the Provisionals are better placed—slightly. Their fierce anti-British attitude at least provides a counter to the planks of SDLP men Hume and Fitt for the army to move in and solve the problem for them.'

But it does not go beyond that. As Terry Robson puts it: 'Those who have said all along that it was too early to take up the straightforward socialist position that we had to wait for civil rights, for national unity or whatever, are completely exposed.

"Republicans either have to fight a sharp quick battle to defeat these tendencies or do what I did—get out and look for a real socialist organisation."

Barbecued mince is not the most obvious dish for Sunday dinner but when mince is the only meat you can get and open-air bonfires the only means of cooking, you take it to quickly enough.

But Wilson's televised broadcast on Saturday night is the major topic of conversation—not of its printables. Indeed Mr Wilson is one of the few subjects about which Catholics and Protestants here seem to be agreed—Wilson's description of some of the people of Northern Ireland as 'spongers on British democracy' caused outrage.

Sure what democracy have we ever had here, British or otherwise, declared Mrs Docherty, chief cook at the Lecky Road bonfire.

Indeed, Derry Catholics have had precious little for the past 50 years and not all for the past five. Protestants as well as Catholics are acutely aware that here pay taxes at the same level as England in Scotland and Wales and by working at cut price wages for Courtaulds, ICI and a hundred other firm, they are making a fair contribution to the coffers of British capitalism.

Catholic workers are, of course, opposed to the strikes but almost everyone in the Bogside is idle anyway. To get to the industrial estate at Maydown the Catholics have to go through the Protestant Waitrose area. On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week they found their way barred by UDA barricades.

Police and soldiers stood by. Blatantly this was drawn into factories where Catholics are employed by Protestants who had managed to get through were attacked and abused.

On Tuesday few set out for Maydown so the hari-kari-minded and the police, with nothing else to do, played football on the road.
You're a wonderful fellow Mr Jones, have a colour TV

THE EXPOSURE of Kenes Poulson and T Dan Smith was long overdue, but this type of corrupt activity is by no means confined to the 'top layer' of this country. Working for the management of our firm (Sony, I can't mention names) has given me an insight into the devious ways they have to use their money and 'gifts' to gain contacts and work. The rules of the game are straightforward. First you entertain the customer with expensive meals and trips to local nightclubs etc paid for by the firm to soften the customer up. Then come the favours: free repairs to his car, old lad sent to his home to carry out alterations and decorating free of charge, the list is endless. Once the contract is in the bag the gifts and favours have to be maintained or you lose the work to a rival firm whom you may have to pay more as 'inducements'.

At Christmas time, our firm looks like Santa's fairy grotto! Boxes of chocolates (for the wmo), cigars, cigarettes, crates of beer, turkeys—you name it, and we are made to wrap it up pretty paper to send to our customers, and weeb beside our firm if we leave someone out... it could cost us a lot of money. It was our custom to use our money and 'gifts' to gain contacts and work.

It's well known that a rival company secured a job by giving colour TV sets to the key managers of a large local manufacturing firm. The workers recipients no doubt treat these gifts as the 'perks' of the job. But could we look at the state of the firm if the majority of the workers at the firm were yoing to receive their Christmas presents from the people on who they're getting the biggest slice of the cake.
PARASITE’S PARADISE

THE ARTICLE in the Scottish Daily Record of 17 May was headlined “An Ordinary Lad for Christ.” Thinking, perhaps, the Bonnie Prince was tired of his parasitical existence, I read on avidly. The “ordinary country home,” as one of the rich trustees of Chevening House in Kent, for all his highfalutin talk, described it, turned out to be a 1 1/2-room mansion, Charles, of course, will not use all of his gigantic wealth. He will simply move into the “ordinary main block, with its ten bedrooms, eight bathrooms and four living rooms—all fully furnished.”

If the Prince should feel the need for some right-relaxation from his exacting employment of ordering working-class matros to scrub decks, wash toilets and other menial tasks suited to their level of intelligence, he can steel around his 3000 acres of land or even gaze on his 24 acres of formal gardens, even take a dip in his four-acre lake, which Sir John Hinxton describes disparagingly as “more of a large pond, really,” and meanwhile back in the slums of Glasgow thousands of members of the working class troop down tene-
mants to see the common toilet shared by, perhaps, 10 families. Many will have to carry

large pails of water to flush away the excrement which has accumulated in the lavatory pan due to the overworked, antiquated cistern breakthroughs. At Glasgow recently I stood on the stage and heard him say Labour wanted “more homes” and “more and more just society.” Is this decision to give free home to Prince Charles, who is rolling in an old green staff, public example of that fairness and justice?

Mr George Peake I could use to further my studies in the theory of the ‘parasite’ and the other leaders of this great movement. I am unable to pay for the use of the material I now have. Mr George Peake could well provide for my extra tuition in a course of study which could well provide for the use of this material. I wish to thank you for the copy of the Socialist Worker which I get each week.—E.P Van des SCHEFF, 84.4 M Prentice, 9 Earlham, New Park, Edge of Wight.

BOOKS PLEASE!

WILL I be grateful if you could let me know if there is any possibility of you being kind enough to lend me any books that may be of use to me? I could use to further my studies in the theory of the ‘parasite’ and the other leaders of this great movement. I am unable to pay for the use of the material I now have. Mr George Peake could well provide for my extra tuition in a course of study which could well provide for the use of this material. I wish to thank you for the copy of the Socialist Worker which I get each week.—E.P Van des SCHEFF, 84.4 M Prentice, 9 Earlham, New Park, Edge of Wight.
**TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM**

'NEITHER [Labour] Party nor unions can achieve their goals without continuous [economic] growth; and we shall not achieve that growth without an income policy.' So writes Mr Anthony Crosland.

Because, says Crosland, the goals 'require a redistribution of wealth and resources; and we shall not get this unless the total resources are growing rapidly. I do not of course believe that rapid growth will automatically produce a transfer of the kind we want... But I do assert dogmatically that in a democracy low or zero growth wholly excludes the possibility.' Any 'substantial' transfer in fact means 'not merely a relative but an absolute decline' in the incomes of the better off and that, according to Crosland, is out of the question.

There you have the reformist case in a nutshell. The reformists claim to want more equality, better housing, education, health and so on. But the incomes of the rich and the middle classes must not be touched. That would be 'undemocratic.' So all these desirable improvements must be paid for out of 'economic growth.'

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**Candid**

If there is 'low or zero growth' and that is certainly going to be the position in 1974, then it is a case of 'sorry lads, there's nowt we can do for you this year.' After all, you can't improve a situation if the accounts that Haughey and Lord Carringtons is for paying for social improvements.

Crosland is candid enough to say this openly, indeed to 'dogmatically assert' it. His colleagues in the government are more tactful but they agree with him. That is why the CBI that 'no one now believes that profit is a dirty word if profit is indeed earned... it is our firm intention to maintain future movements of profits closely and to take action if we judge it necessary to use that investment is not endangered by the undue concentration of profits.'

Crosland, Haughey and the highly Labour Party leadership expect and intend that capitalism will continue indefinitely, that the rich will always be with us and that 'honestly earned' profits will be the mainstay of the economy.

The way to be socialists of any kind is fraudulent. The 'economic growth' argument is a smoke screen to conceal the real purpose of their 'income policy,' or rather their policy to pay policy they have taken over—the defence of capitalist profits.

Moreover, the argument that economic growth, even if achieved, is the way to greater equality is plainly false. All past experience points to the opposite conclusion. Harold Wilson, in one of his 'left periods—in opposition of course—made the point clearly enough.

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**True**

'In any period of economic expansion, there is a law of increasing return to the rich, of an increased proportion of newly produced wealth accruing to the owners of property.'

Wilson said that in 1960. It was true then. It is true now. But there is a still more basic problem. Granted that economic growth under capitalism does not produce greater equality, that if anything it tends to increase inequality, what about economic growth in a socialist society?

A reader has written in making the point that the idea of indefinite economic growth in a world of finite resources doesn't make sense. That is certainly true. And there are other reasons why a socialist society cannot possibly be based on unlimited economic growth as we shall see in further articles in this series.

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**The ‘growth’ fraud**

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**Here’s the way we’ll be running things...**

John Todd, still fighting on after 20 years. They keep saying: ‘Oh, it’s terrible. We’re short of Factory Inspectors.’ But the truth is that shop stewards are the best factory inspectors in the business. That’s probably why we’re always being attacked.

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**Final article in the series**

pinpoints one weapon the employers have always had working for them.

The one thing that was always in the back of people’s minds was fear for the job. The depression meant workers felt they had to keep their heads down to hold a job. In this way habits of mind got formed, habits that made it easier for the boss to cut out cut costs.

People’s decency and willingness to work can also be exploited, or their belief that it is ‘fear to risk’ danger.

Failing all this there is the cash nexus. Exposure to dust, dirt, noise or what have you can be agreed in return for ‘dirty money.’ In any case to step out of line is being awkward, the act of a ‘coward.’

When you organise for safety at work, whatever the hazard, it is things like fear, bravado, fatalism, and subservience that you are taking on. In their place you will need the ability to put an issue across. You need the respect of your workmates who face the question of dozens of tests. But you also need information, reliable information so that your statements on the subject are believed, not shrugged off.

For all these reasons the fight for safety has to come from below. It will often come in opposition to the ‘experts’ who are usually the same government department which frowns compensation rather than cure.

You need to have new materials tested before they are brought into use. If you are already working with untested materials you should get them tested now. If some toll of life and limb is already taking place you need to have exact knowledge of its extent. You need to keep records to help with claims. But most of all you need to step it up. In the fight you need organisation most of all, starting on the job and in the company and spreading through the factory and through the union.

It is a tough fight. But the stakes are huge.

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**The asbestos murders**

about two and a half years ago, any dad came home with a strong box, an adding machine and a small suitcase full of cash books and bank statements.

He was on the committee of a social club and the treasurer had been taken ill. Dad was standing in an emergency to help to keep out of the paper work. I joined the club and was approach the committee as assistant treasurer.

I enjoyed myself so much that when the treasurer recovered, I stayed on him gradually.

There was an atmosphere I have never found in pubs or disco. Everyone knew everyone else. If things were up well together. There was a lot of drinking but I never saw a fight up there. We would go round with name-cards, of course, with the inevitable bingo. Mostly we made a terrible mess of what we won on drinks for family and friends. And there was also the option of a donation to the club social fund.

For me the best time was the last hour. The stage was thrown open and up would jump the regulars to sing the old songs, the sentimental songs. Everyone would join in, even now foreign words. I had never been before to Southern Europe – the only possible way to express my appreciation.

Then home, drunk and merry after a good night out.

As far as I know this kind of club is typical. Yet they seem to be ignored by socialists writing about working-class culture.

While there, I was amazed to learn that when the committee had been elected the club was close to bankruptcy, with debts up to two years old and accounts that looked like the money sums in a kid’s exercise book.

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**Books**

by the end of the year we had cleared all debts except the brewery, with whom we had an understanding. We published monthly balance sheets and the books were accurate down to the last penny.

Our bank balance was in the black and our cheques were once more acceptable to local traders. Yet the whole committee was made up of housewives and workers. My dad had said, when he asked me to help out: ‘I’m just an ignorant docker.’

But these ‘innocent’ workers had run a business for a year in the face of impossible obstacles. (In the beginning we could only afford to pay a barrel of beer when we had sold the last one and only the money to pay cash.)

After it was out it was two free pints at the monthly committee meetings. The workers were made out of the club. The club was run for the members’ benefit and not for profit. When we say we can, like that, run a country under socialism, we are told: ‘It would not work... People are too greedy.’

This might be true of our masters, who spend their whole lives squeezing people. But when we on the receiving end finally sweep them out of the way, our new freedom will be jealously guarded as something too precious ever to be lost again.

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**Mike Stanton**

(TGWU)
The Select Target of the KGB

IF I WERE in this country, I would be organizing in support of the jailed Shrewsbury building workers. He would be protesting about British troops being in Ireland. In one way or another, and not the personal cost, he would be fighting for change, attacking the lie which pass for truth.

In one country, in Europe, I would be doing the same thing. In Russia, another place with no shortage of issues that a committed socialist must take up.

He protested against the invasion of Czechoslovakia and demanded the withdrawal of Russian troops. He insisted that the workers, peasants and peoples of the USSR, The Chechen, The Tatars, the Ingush, be allowed their freedom. He raised the banner of socialist democracy.

The penalties against those who stood up for freedom are steeper in Russia than anywhere else in the world. In Russia it is dangerous to dissent, never mind to engage in public propaganda for genuinely communist beliefs. Grigorov is the perfect example.

He has been classified as insane and confined to a madhouse. Every six months a medical board 'review' his case. But Pyotr Grigorov's decline to renounce his beliefs and to obey the board concludes that his madness is still upon him.

The article concluded:

Honest, that was meant as a joke. I really didn't mean it.
There's no need for the people in Downing Street to start taking Socialist Worker too seriously. Even before the June Queen's birthday honours, Harold Wilson has announced a list of 12 new Labour peers. They include:

Send to Ken Muller, SSC, 8 Cottons Gardens, London SE1 2EB

The Select Target of the KGB

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If you want to respond to this article, please send it to the Socialist Worker office.

Training Committee/Student Committee

Day 1: IS traditions/political perspectives
Day 2: The student movement 1966-1974
Day 3: Practical work
June 24-26: EDINBURGH
June 26-28: YORK
July 1-3: MANCHESTER
July 3-5: BIRMINGHAM
July 9-11: OXFORD
July 10-12: LONDON

Attendance at ONE school is an obligation for all students. Number your preference of dates 1, 2, 3.
Name:
Address:

Send to Ken Muller, SSC, 8 Cottons Gardens, London SE1 2EB
What's happened to the honeymoon?

When Labour came to power in 1964 Harold Wilson and his deputy, George Brown, turned to the world amid great hope over 'a declaration of intent' by government, TUC and CBI to collaborate in the national interest.

Labour's campaign to power a second time, Wilson presents us with a 'social contract'?

The declaration of intent led to an incomes policy. This was enthusiastically defended for several years—largely by the trade unions who represented the lower-paid. In 1965-66, and even after the complete freeze of July 1966, the public employers, shop workers, clerical workers and PFA, who were supported by the incomes policy as the best way to defend the interests of the lower-paid.

Harold Wilson, George Brown and others argued that if workers in a stronger position were to do without part of their wage rises, the money would be given instead to the lower-paid. This idea was accepted by millions of workers, who believed incomes policy was a good thing in principle.

The whole idea was based on a fraud. If Ford workers were to hold back a claim for another £1 a week, would the Ford managers then transfer the accumulated pounds to help the nurses, or would they transfer it to the Ford bank account?

Ask the question: is this right?

Strongest

The trade unions are won capitalisation is simple: workers in the strongest sections, in the technologically advanced industries where productivity has increased, win increases—then it is up to the rest of the working class to keep up. By comparing their own wages with those received by workers in other sections. If one section of the working class, such as nurses, then transfers, the others. If in one held back, this damages the others.

In other words, if the strongest and best organised workers hold back, the whole working class is held back with them.

But it took several years for the lower-paid workers to learn from experience that incomes policy could not help them at all. In 1969 Wilson's incomes policy was smashed by the trade unions.

Challenged

This time the question is answered. The links between the weak and the strong are challenged. The trade unions are challenging the workers. The savings policy has been defeated for the lower-paid cannot wait for wages to be adjusted to the increased cost of living. Alice through the Looking Glass, they have to run fast if they are to play at all.

So the local government workers, teachers, nurses and others are turning to mass struggles, to general confrontation with employers and government.

Commitment

Lastly, the engineers, being much better organised than the nurses or local government workers, are on self-confidence that they feel the need for generalisation of the struggle is much less. So a virile, self-confidence becomes inarticulate, a handicap, a narrow, fragmented, sectional approach to the struggle.

But we should not underestimate the important changes taking place among these same engineering workers. It is true that the leadership of the Confederation of Engineering Workers involving two million workers, signed a national agreement that gives only peanuts to workers—far less than Phase Three allows. Phase Three allows for the agreement to cover only 2 or 2.5 per cent.

Defensive

But there are three strikes where workers are on the defensive. As whole the wages in engineering are not keeping up with the cost of living, management's move to squeeze more out of the workers by going against shop stewards. There have been widespread struggles over shop stewards' rights and against reorganisation of the management. The battles against these policies is not sectional.

Hyphenated

Another is the: these workers have been very clearly the most sectional.
You’re sick. You’re socialist. You’re sacked

ALEX MCGOUGH has been an epileptic for three years, since he had a head operation. He is also a socialist.

He has just been sacked after working four weeks at Heinz, Luton. There was no job available in the factory that someone with his medical condition could do, said the company.

Because of his illness, Alex has had to work very hard to get work. Since the operation he has had at least three interviews in the last three months and the shortest three weeks, the majority of them for jobs that could be done with his condition.

The Disablement Resettlement Office was no help, only failing to find him a single job in six months.

They told him that due to his ill health he only needed to do one of two jobs, that of gardener or cleaner.

Alex: Epileptics are as together as anyone else. But because they may have a fit they are looked down on by employers who know nothing about the different kinds of epilepsy. When they do have a fit they tell them you are doing a favour. Some favour! You find up doing the same job at a much lower rate of pay at a lower wage.

They claim I’m a safety hazard but the employers’ only record on that score isn’t too bright and it couldn’t even begin to compare with M-A’s “cleaner” or the Coal Board.

Epileptic

So Alex didn’t tell Heinz he was an epileptic. ‘I mean I have to work very hard to get work and any personal experience of personnel managers is that when you’ve an epileptic they lose their compposure, regain it and if it’s ‘Well it might be a bit dodgy, we won’t call you’.

He couldn’t do the job. Two weeks later he had a fit at work which changed his mind.

The personnel officer started asking me all sort of things about my illness and what not. He was beginning to tell him about epilepsy and what not. He went to the canteen for a cup of tea. He came back on the ladder again, he had started talking about what was really happening.

Purely out of friendship he would put me up in the ladder, he would climb up the ladder (he very words), whose potential he was going to get up on his ladder in turn would sell me to the shop stewards, and the very problems – for once not epilepsy.

It had been noticed that my friends on the factory floor were socialists and militants and that didn’t exactly strengthen my case. Are you asking me to give up my friends and ideas? I said, ‘Ok, no, I wouldn’t ever do that, but for a man in your position it would be better not to be seen too much in their company, he told me.

He went on about how lucky I was to be at Heinz, which was a company and had a scheme for such as me and provided I kept in mind what he said, a permanent job would be found for me in the factory.

Well, I was called to the office the following Monday morning and it had happened I had a badge on so did many other workers in Heinz saying “Free the Shrewsbury pickets.” He remarked that I didn’t have to show my colours and asked me to take it off.

He then offered me three jobs one in stationery and advertising which he reckoned would be the toughest – and I accepted.

The company was a depart-ent, normally reserved for older workers about to retire. Once again I had it imposed upon me that I ought to be very grateful. I was under the impression it had been a permanent position.

An old worker there was leaving and I thought I had his job.

Then Alex joined the International Socialists.

Well I’ve always been a socialist, which is why in this factory automatically mixed with socialist workers. A number were in my opinion they were saying the right things about what should be done, I started helping them sell Socialist Worker and even attend their discussion groups and when they decided to set up a factory I said I would join.

Two weeks later I was called into the office with the convenor and he told me I was no longer on the books and told I was to be sacked on disciplinary grounds. Two months later the management were still going on about the union and if we wanted a job we had to sign a statement. I signed the second one after my fit, the first one, as I’ve already said, was false.

The manager started to make out I was an epileptic and that I couldn’t do the work. I was let go, but I was told outright he was going to be sacked. The personnel officer said it was entirely a management decision and had nothing to do with me.

‘I was being sacked because there was no work’ Alex said. ‘As a special gift they would give me two weeks’ pay personally and the Heinz doctor would try to get me into a resettlement centre (passing me again.)

Alex asked the personnel officer if he had a job in Heinz after he had done the rehabilitation course. “I don’t have the confidentiality” he said. But when asked for a yes or no answer he replied he had no job and doesn’t even like to close the door completely and be home alone.

Revolutionary

Well there you have it,” said Alex. ‘I am still a revolutionary socialist and I’m still an epileptic. I don’t believe the work is a living for me in the way there are thousands of people with my illness and it seems capitalist society has no place for us unless we are prepared to accept job rights at the bottom of the slasher. I have seen the problems and I must be grateful for the privilege’.

This article was prepared by members of the Heinz branch of the International Socialists.

Black eggs were coming from Europe

IT STARTED in the spring of 1871, in Sunderland. The engineers there wanted a nine-hour day. Their union, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, was weak in Sunderland but Andrew Gourley, who had moved from the town from Jarrow, worked hard among the shop stewards, agitating for short working hours.

The response was quick and clear. The men hated the long hours worse even than the low pay. The big engineering firms in the city were paralysed by a strike. So solid and determined was the strike that the bosses collapsed within three weeks.

The bosses knew, and the men knew, that the Sunderland victory was useless unless it spread to Newcastle. As long as the engineering employers in Newcastle held to a 64-hour week, the men in Sunderland would be squeezed into line.

So the agitation shifted to Newcastle, where the union was even weaker than it had been in Sunderland. The vast majority of engineers in the city were not even members of the union. But the movement for the nine-hour day swept through the engineering factories. By early May, plans were laid for a strike across the city.

The strike leader, John Burnett, went to see the Mayor of Newcastle with a delegation. ‘Please,’ begged the Mayor, ‘end the strike before the prosperity of Newcastle, and the north of England, is sacrificed to a strike.’ John Burnett replied: ‘My Lord Mayor, I am a moderate man but you seem to have gone into my committee room tonight and advocated that I should not go out of my committee room tonight and advocated that the delegation had not agitated at all. They only went forward. It was like running downhill with a stone in your hand which you could not be resisted.

On 25 May, 5,000 engineers left their workplaces, stopping all the main engineering works in the city. In the Amalgamated Engineers’ Union, Sir William Armstrong, sent to Scotland for blacklegs. But a series of hurried delegations from the strikers to Scottish union representatives were soon put to a stop that day.

Then Sir William sent to Europe. His efforts were placed for engineers in Holland, France, and eventually in Belgium. A thousand workers were shipped in from Holland, sparring no expense, brawned them and fed them in the city’s schools, mostly of which he owned.

Burnett and the union were defeated. They could send delegations to Scotland, but they had no power there. So John Burnett and Tom Whetstone, the union president, visited the General Council of the Workmen’s International, which had been formed six years earlier.

They begged the council to intervene on behalf of the Newcastle strikers. Karl Marx, who sat on the council, spoke angrily to the delegation.

Affiliation

You are not even affiliated to the International! he exclaimed. ‘We are desperate for the affiliation of your big unions, but you only come to us when you need help. The foreign workers responded to his appeal. 13 German workers, Armstrong’s main factory came out. Soon afterwards I was marching the nine-hour day! Every boat leaving Newcastle carried a large hatch of foreign workers who had decided not to break the strike.

Within weeks, the factories were silent again.

On 11 August 11, 1 weeks after the strike had started, the owners gave up.

This was the greatest victory of the workers in Sunderland. John Burnett gave credit where it was due. ‘We would not have been able to win without the action of the International’, he said. And indeed, the Sunderland leadership decided to terminate the strike and return to work. The victory was not hard, but it was a great and lasting victory for the Sunderland workers and a great blow to the bosses. A large strike had been won by the workers and the Sunderland workers’ action. But the union had lost its hold on the implications of victory, and refused to build on it.
Death from lack of funds...

On the left, IRENE BRUGEL puts the socialist arguments in favour of abortion, while (right) a woman who has had an abortion tells of the shock. BAKER FAKES puts the abortion controversy to a look at the 14 new-born babies who don’t live because of lack of hospital facilities.

I WISH that the people who marched on the 1973 election demonstration of the Unborn Child Demonstration would have listened to me. I am a socialist Social Worker since about the 'right age' (I'm 27) to stop and think what the slogan meant.

A foetus has no means of exercising any choice in the matter of its existence before birth, and this is a system which has been passed could not survive independently of the mother. To say it has rights as a potential human being is a ReadOnly error in the face of the human misery of denying abortions. You can take the 'potential' argument to ridiculous lengths. When does a potential life begin? A fertilised egg has only a possible chance of developing into a human being. So do any group of sperm and egg. So the logic of SPUC's argument is that any action, even an abortion is not a reasonable sexual intercourse—denies the right of life to a potential human being.

Of course they don't argue this. And they don't argue for a better health service to reduce the rate of natural miscarriages which are far greater source of 'pain' to the foetus than that relatively small miscarriage rate. They do. They should.

They should clean up. SPUC's 'arguments' are really just religious beliefs, which they should never, ever, ever, argue for. And the rest of us who don't hold them.

In the conditions of the rich and the poor conditions would be such that abortions would be few. But within this society to deny women the right to abortion is to oppress them and many children, in often appalling circumstances, could be on the point of being born.

As a socialist, about to become an unwed mother, I was fighting to improve these conditions and for the right to abortion, and found myself in conflict, in both demands are part and parcel of the fight for a life with dignity. Both are being interfered with.

Then the argument is put forward that there are 10 couples (young, healthy and white?) baby available for adoption. So what follows from that? Individual women forced to bear babies for adoption.

On the other hand, 5600 babies less than four weeks old are effectively murdered every year.

This makes the future about abortion appear even more hypocritical than it already is. Mass murder on this scale is difficult to believe, but the facts come from that most sober medical journal, the Lancet.

Every year, 17,000 babies die. According to the Lancet, 'most of the mortality is attributable to at least a third and possibly by half of the preventable causes of mortality.' In perinatal care (looking after new-born babies) were not generally available throughout the country.' In other words, if the money were available, 5600 babies would be saved every year. The Lancet adds that most of the babies were stillborn and this is in the midst of the modern medical revolution.

Modern technology has cut the number of deaths and the percentage of babies who are very seriously handicapped is cut.

Yet even skilful hard-working hospital staff are, if tools are not available lives which should be saved are not.

It is a monstrous crime against humanity that technological progress is being applied to the full.

Co-Ownership?

No, it isn't the answer

JUST OVER TWO years ago 59 women in a shoe factory at Fakenham, Norfolk, were sacked when the company was sold to a firm from the North. They fought back, occupied the factory and began to design and produce their own boots, keeping the profits.

At a time of mergers, takeovers and occupations—the experience of Fakenham is important, not to be forgotten, but to be remembered and learned from.

Satisfactory

I came to visit a tiny room shared with 12 other women. A baby was packed literally head to foot. The same room in the same house, but at least the women came to take our temperatures. We were then called in to see the doctor and informed that the operation had been performed satisfactorily. We were given 12 months free prescription for the pill. Women later in the room, all Included in the package deal for £5.

After a painful, uncomfortable night, we were wakened at 6.30 and told to lie on the bed because the doctor was doing his rounds to give everyone a thorough examination. Although the observation was quite gentle at a time.

This over we were asked to get out of bed immediately to leave by 8.30. We went through reception, where 10 women were waiting to go through the same process. I wanted to shout 'Vio and find out else you have your abortion' but now I feel I have been dealt with.

Lotus Elan

On the way home I thought about it all, and looked at the owner of a bloody Lotus Elan, and the nurse and porter-cum-anesthetist were smiling.

I reckoned with 20-30 abortions per day, seven days a week they were taking in between £7840 and £10120 per week.

And that was just counting the male vaccinators (£4000). It was £14,000 per day.

After the abortion done private didn't mean that the state didn't. The abortion doctor just had a nurse sitting with a patient on the neck of the womb due to infection. It entailed countless trips to my doctor and six mortgages a week keeping the hospital before the infection was cleared.

I believe that every woman should have the right to have an abortion. We are women. Our experience was enough to turn any one of us in the mental ward. I still look at the National Health Service and my ex-roommates in the same situation as it is had to when abortions were illegal and performed for £100 in someone's back room.

Now, women are being robbed of even more money to get what is the basic right of every woman—the right to choose. Under capitalism everything's a sale...
A WORD IN OUR EAR

THE first of an occasional series featuring some of the historic speeches, manifestoes and proclamations of people who fought for freedom—and who continue to talk a lot better than us today.

THE 13 WHO STOOD UP TO UNCLE JOE

THE BALHAM GROUP (HOW BRITISH TROOPERS BEGAN) by Leo特意, Pluto Press 1976

The 13 whos are now left as the only hope of the free world, the only hope of the free world, the only hope of the free world.

THE GREAT GUEST HOUSE TO A MAN-KIND

People of France!

For fifteen centuries you have lived as men and women and therefore unhappy. But now, as I have seen it, you have never been more revolting with the other nations that vegetate on this wretched globe!

Always and everywhere, the poor human beings, in the hands of the more or less adherent cannales is the tool of the exploiters:

Always and everywhere men were being exploited, never, never was it that they receive the fulfillment with the promise.

In all and equal, we are not! This principle is uncontroverted; for without being one cannot be a man. Well, henceforward we are going to live and die as we were born; we desire real equality or death.

And we shall have this real equality at all costs. We to those who stand between us and us. We to those who resist such a desire.

A new beginning is made by another revolution, far greater, far more sweeping.

We declare that we can no longer permit that the huge majority of men toil and sweat for the service and at the pleasure of the tiny minority.

And so too have long less than a million individuals disposed of what belongs to all and to all.

End of this last crying scandal, scandal, our descendents will not credit! Vain at last, revolting distinctions of rich and poor, great and little, masters and serfs, govemors and governed.

Let there be no difference between human beings but in age and sex! Since all have the same needs and the same facilities, let there

BABEUF'S MANIFESTO OF EQUALS

Francois-Noel Gracchus Babeuf, one of the first to put forward communist ideas, went to the guillotine on 25 May, 1797 after a stooge had betrayed a planned uprising by his Society of the Equals to restore the original aims of the French Revolution—liberty, equality, fraternity.

Babeuf's ideas were summed up in the Declaration of Equals. Extracts from it are reproduced here.

We shall not waste our time in answering them, we shall tell you: The holy enterprise which we are organizing has for its only aim to end civil division and the misery of the people.

The moment for great measures has come.

The evil is at its height, it covers the face of the earth. Chaos has reigned and the name of politics too many centuries. Everything must be in order and resume its place. Let the elements of justice and happiness crystallize at the source of Equality. The time has come to found the Republic of Equals, that great guest-house of all mankind. The days of restitution have arrived. Wrecking families and property tests at the common table, nature spreads for all her children.

People of France!

For you: there was reserved the purest of all the pure. Now is your turn to see that will lead us out of a world that touching sight.

Ancient habits, arcane prejudices again try to prevent the establishment of the Republic of Equals. The organiser of real equality, the only state which answers all requirements, without making victims or costing sacrifices, perhaps will not at first please everyone. The just and ambitious man will scream with rage. Those who possess unjustly will cry out, injure, declare their exclusive, their solitary pleasures, their personal ease will leave bitter longing in the hearts of some individuals who have given effect by their neighbours, their lovers of absolute power, and worthless tools of arbitrary authority will find it hard to bring their cheeks to the level of the people. Their short sight cannot penetrate into the near future of the common good; but what is the power of a few thousand inhabitants against the mass of men, entirely happy and wondering that they sought so long for what was beneath their hand.

On the morrow of this true revolution they will say: What was the common good so easy? We had but to will it. Ah, why did we not do it sooner? Was it necessary to repeat it to us so often? Yes, without doubt, but one man on earth more rich and powerful than his fellows, his equals, shatters the equilibrium; and crime and unhappiness arise on earth.

People of France!

OPEN YOUR eyes and hearts to the fullness of joy. Recognize and proclaim with us the REPUBLIC OF EQUALS.

DUNCAN HALLAS

Paralysed

Stalin had imposed on all the parties "ultra-leftist" policies which cut them off from non-Party and Labour Party workers and paralysed the revolutionary movement at the time. And when the Party line was "social fascists". The Balham Group challenged this line of the leadership of the British Communist Party. They challenged too, the line of the German Communist Party for its blind refusal to develop a work-class united front against the growing menace of Hitler and Fascism.

They took up some of the criticism. But this was too little, too late. In 1932 Stalin's crimes and blunders.

They were unforgivable sins to the communists, the Red Army and the trade unionists. They had to be exposed and condemned.

And so the 13 members of the Balham Group were expelled from the Party and covered with slander and abuse.

They were setting out on a road much longer than any of them could have known. It is the road we are now following. 40 years on. Their tradition is our tradition. Without their self-sacrifice, stubbornness and devotion, under conditions incomparably more difficult than those of today, our task would be that much more difficult.

In telling their story, Reg Groves has performed an invaluable service. Every member of the International Socialists should buy, study and treasure this little book.
The General and Municipal Workers' annual delegate conference in Blackpool next week will be mainly concerned with rules revision.

The agenda contains many propositions on how the union can be changed to allow the membership more room to move and more air to breathe.

The concern starts with how delegates are selected. From there it spreads to many other key aspects of the way the union is operated.

Three resolutions have been submitted to try to make conference more representative and responsive.

There is an attempt to stop retired members representing branches, and two motions seeking an end to the system of advance bookings of delegations by suggestion that no one should go to conference more than twice in a row.

At first sight these moves may not seem crucial. In fact they are. They represent considerable effort by the rank and file to get to grip with a union operated strictly in the interests of the leadership.

The simple fact about the conference is that there is a very low proportion of lay delegates since everything is done through the regions.

**Block votes**

Disenfranchised members of the Northern Region are disappointed. Cunningham and Cunningham—recall the way their conference delegations were won up in advance and how important that was to the regime.

After conference the delegates would meet in their hotel and decide who would go into the bookings of rooms for next year.

Some of them would be branch secretaries—often of branches which rarely, if ever, met—they would dispense of thousands of block votes.

A bit of horse-trading would be done and a safe seat for next year's conference would be assured.

There is now a push to get this system changed and to open it up more. The main difficulty is that change has to be discussed through a mass meeting of delegates. The rest keep down the influence of the rank and file.

Among other key reforms on the way is the attempt to make strikes at the heart of the present set-up.

Both No. 2 and Wandsworth branches have put down amendments to the totalitarian rule 37 which, among other repressive measures, prevents branches communicating with one another unless addressed or circulars have been approved by regional council, or executive council of the union.

**Bureaucracy**

Both's amendment would sweep this away and allow branches to communicate without the usual formalities. The amendment passed, with almost universal support from each region. But a built-in majority of top-level full-time officials is ensured by the regional council automatically holding one of the two seats from each region.

The National Executive is very much the creature of the General Council and the Executive Council are the union's top committees, and appointed by them.

The General Council consists of the union chairman, general secretary, and treasurer, plus two representatives from each region.

But a built-in majority of top-level full-time officials is ensured by the regional council automatically holding one of the two seats from each region.

The National Executive is very much the creature of the General Council and the Executive Council are appointed by them and having decisions subject to its approval.

Branches are attempting to build in at least a majority of lay members to the General Council. And, indeed, almost any change would be an improvement on the present system, which is the present set-up.

But the union is not taking any major step towards democracy, this whole top-level structure must be restated.

**Machine**

Full-time officials—national or regional—should not be given the top committees on a plate. On the contrary, there should be only one top committee—a lay, elected national executive.

This year is seen by many as the year to get the new system into operation. The national executive is very much the creature of the General Council and the Executive Council are appointed by them.

The union is not taking any major step towards democracy, this whole top-level structure must be restated.

**Priceless Murray**

The ANNUAL conference of Trades Councils at Worthing has unanimously called for the release of the Shrewsbury building workers and the repeal of the 1875 Treason Act.

Other resolutions called for a complete ban on the use of lamasites and subsidies, nationalisation of the building industry under workers control, the abolition of private practice and all charges within the National Health Service, total opposition to the military junta in Chile and an end to all arms shipments there.

TUC general secretary Len Murray made a priceless contribution to the working class struggle when he spoke at the conference of wage restraint "becoming a way of life" and of "improved industrial performance" as the answer to all our problems.
International Socialist News

FIGHT AGAINST THE SHACKS

The interest of the Brighton police in the sellers of Socialist newspapers has been rather more than routine ever since we've been selling the paper in the town.

Socialist and trade unionists selling the paper have been subjected to all kinds of harassment and regularly threatened with charges.

The latest maneuver of these guardians of freedom of speech has been to propose to the town council that the selling of anything in the streets without a license should be made illegal.

We stand for

The International Socialist is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay contributions and to work in one of its organisations:

We believe in independent working-class action for the formation of capitalist and working-class society, with production for use and not for profit.

We condemn the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world in colonies and alliances except to their own national economic system they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multi-national firms. The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international revolution.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of all countries come to rally and extending the socialist revolution.

In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country, we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international of all the workers of each country. The building of this and our close relations with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world is essential.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the day-to-day struggle of our working class brothers. We therefore support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight:

For rank and file control of trade unions and the regular election of all full-time officials.

Against secret negotiations. We believe that all agreements should be signed.

For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.

Against anti-trade union laws and any curbs on the right to strike, whether the strikes are 'official' or ' unofficial'.

For equal pay and a better deal for younger workers.

For productivity deals and job evaluation for all trade unions and the whole of social security.

For recognition rights and the right to negotiate in all trades and industries.
How we stopped the boss putting up prices

by Yannis Pparra

TGWL shop steward and branch secretary

Conditions in the factory were appalling. But since we got organised we have obtained three wage increases in a year, smashing Phase Three. Perhaps workers have something to learn from us though we have only been organised for one year. If they took the same sort of action, then we would not be suffering from the present huge rises in the cost of living.

We have achieved this because we have organised every worker in the company, even the 278 drivers-salesmen. One of these is the only one who supports the TGWL.

In our shop we have four different nationalities - Indians, Turks, Greeks and English. Our union organises in all four languages. Yet we are as one and understand each other because our aim is to improve conditions for everyone.

I think all workers in Britain have a duty to follow us. A price increase is a wage cut for us and all workers.

Ballet over computers strike

The leaders of the Civil and Public Services Association are anxiously awaiting the results of a ballot which they hope will allow them to call off the five-week old strike in the Post Office. They have organised a campaign of action, aimed at securing a special "catching up" pay award which has stopped most telephone bills.

The Post Office, however, suffered badly under Phase Three. Morale has dropped as the usual routine job变成了一项威胁，付给的待遇从原本的期望值降低到实际值。管理层不得不在谈判桌上做出一些让步，但工会成员希望进一步提高工资，这将使双方的立场尖锐对立。最终，通过谈判，双方达成了一个协议，一个名为"Fair Pay"的工资调整方案。为了保持工人的积极性，管理层还承诺在未来的几个月里提供额外的奖金。
NURSES: THERE'S NO STopping THEM NOW

EASTLEIGH, Hants—Workers picketing Strachan's Engineering factory have put out a nationwide appeal to all workers in the National Rank and File Organising Committee. They claim that the subsidiaries of Giltspur, Strachan's parent company, are employing a black market tactics to avoid a pay rise, and are calling on the National Rank and File Organising Committee, 126 Princelet Street, London E1, to back them in the strike. They have also requested the support of the Arthur Rank Fund, 11 Wilton Road, London SW1X 8AB.

THE historic nurses' revolt increased in intensity this week.

All over the country nurses, banisters and doctors are demonstrating in their thousands, demanding an end to the scandal of low pay in hospitals and to halt the general drift of nurses and other essential workers away from the health service.

Nurses in the Confederation of Health Service Employees took part in the large strike action, adopted a general policy of stepping up the pressure for an increase in pay over the next three to six months.

The government is taking place despite Minister of Health Barbara Castle's attempts to buy time and cool the situation by postponing the inquiry. Indeed it was the unprecedented revolt of the nurses which forced Barbara Castle to make a speedy statement and to promise an inquiry and conceding payment of threshold increases to all nurses and ordering any other special bonuses payments that had been held up to be paid right away.

COLLAPSE

But the anger of the nurses has not been cooled by her words. They are taking action to demand urgent pay increases and won't be deterred by the inquiry. And from the inquiry they are looking for a very substantial sum that really will give them some approximation to a living wage than halt the collapse of the health service.

Despite all this the National Union of Public Employees' leaders continue their split with the nurses, claiming General Secretary Alan Fisher just doesn't want to do anything to upset the Labour government, even if doing nothing weakens his own position.

The nurses' revolt is being backed to the hilt by other hospital workers. Their living standards too are being cut to pieces by higher prices. So it's clear that they have recovered from the defeat and are now beginning to send them last year largely because the trade union movement left them to fight alone. The nurses and hospital workers' pay claims should be united and pursued as one.

ACTIVE

This week too active support for the nurses has been growing with nurses and others demonstrating. Active support from the big battalions of the working class movement will ensure the health workers victory and stop the progressive collapse of the health service.

Action at hospitals throughout the country

STOKE—For the second time this year Stoke hospital workers have launched an attack on the management of Stoke hospital, the English hospital's white-collar section. In February the workers set up a TASS and refused to work longer, as they were being paid on a system of hours that would have cut wages as the TASS conference at Blackpool. Since the wage claim was refused the workers have refused to do the excessive overtime demanded of them.

I was asked to explain to the management of Stoke hospital that I was not going to do those long working hours. But I don't believe in Saturday overtime, my hours clock up to 40 hours a week and that's enough.

I was asked what I was doing over time. That is my belief and I am working 40 hours a week and that's enough. I am not the reason I am being sacked.

It is a matter of not showing the management what the cost of over time is. That's all.

Messages of support to c/o John Bird, 47 East Bank Road, Portobello, Stoke on Trent.

HARRY FIGHTS ON

WITHIN PHASE THREE

by Seymour Tivnu (TGWU)

CORNWALL—A mass meeting of the Healthcote's in the Brock Beach's meeting in Cornwall last Friday May 19. Transport Union last week Harry didn't rock little to anyone in the meeting. The message was the union's local district officer, outside the factory to the Brock Beach, within the Phase Three limits. Once again, Jimmy Roscket, struggled with the question of why he was outside the factory to the Brock Beach, within the Phase Three limits. Once again, Ken was outside the factory to the Brock Beach, within the Phase Three limits. The meeting was attended by a large number of members.

Sacked—For carrying a coffin

BOLTON—Jack Cummins, an Engineering Trades Union member of Automotive and Packaging, took a week off work after he was sacked seven weeks ago he was said to be suffering from management. He was told that he had been published. He was told that he had been paid for the week off work after he was sacked seven weeks ago. He was told that he had been paid for the week off work after he was sacked seven weeks ago. He was told that he had been paid for the week off work after he was sacked seven weeks ago. He was told that he had been paid for the week off work after he was sacked seven weeks ago. He was told that he had been paid for the week off work after he was sacked seven weeks ago.

The management insisted that the article was nothing to do with his sacking. But the article was brought up by the 35 who joined the union as a result of the strike—protested at Jack's calling them 'a sucking cunt.'

Some of the 1000 nurses who marched in Nottingham. PICTURE: John Stuart

One group of nurses carried a coffin symbolising the death of the Florence Nightingale image. Other banners proclaimed the need for money on the table and not a six-month wait. The main demand of the demonstration was one of the most poignant to Barbara Castle's inquiry, which gives the nurses little or nothing at all.

The Royal College of Nurses had given support for the demonstration but withdrew it only the evening before, concluding its unpreparedness. Despite this, a group of RCN declared its solidarity and went on the march.

Token stoppage was the plan to take place at 11 o'clock this morning. The march, which was organised by UNISON, was led by the nurses, and the march was quickly attended by the police.

HOSPITAL WORKERS—the rank and file paper which fights for rank and file women. For information write to the 30s newly-formed joint shop stewards committee in the hospital was immediately called to act for a reinstatement of a section of the hospital. The majority of the 30s reinstated their section, and in a meeting with the hospital.

LIVERPOOL—400 hospital workers marched to the Pleas Court on Saturday when the nurses in the factory, office or hospital to build a campaign for the nurses.

International Socialists

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like to see more like this, in the future, then send this form to: The International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Name

Address

Trade Union
£1.20: GET FLOW AND FIGHT FOR MORE

by Steve Jeffreys

FIGURES released last Friday mean that last month’s increase in the cost of living was the highest for 29 years.

But even these figures—representing an annual rate of price inflation of more than 20 per cent—don’t tell the true story for working-class people. Workers spend more on basic needs such as food and housing than is allowed for in the official index. So for working-class families living costs have jumped even higher.

Those with power and wealth in this society couldn’t really care a damn about what price inflation means to you. Nonetheless they have one slight problem. When Tories were drawing up their incomes policy last year, Ted Heath wrote in a threshold clause. This gives 40p-a-week rises every time the index goes up one per cent above six per cent.

ENOUGH

On Friday last week the seven per cent threshold limit was smashed again and those seven million workers who agree that threshold deals became due for payment of a £1.20 increase.

But there are 14 million workers who are covered and are not going to get the £1.20 (and the £3.60 which will be due if prices rise another nine per cent in the next six months) unless they put in a claim and fight it out.

True these rises are not enough—nothing like enough. They were dreamed up by the Tories in a bid to sweeten their relations with the TUC leaders. And now they’re being paid to try and stop workers fighting for the 20 per cent rises and above that would keep pace with the rising cost of living.

For each 40p increase in gross pay 15p will be lost in income tax and another 2p in National Insurance. And that won’t be accounted for in their pay envelopes. The rebate will lose a further £p a week in rebates for each 40p he gets.

The rises only apply to the basic hourly rate, and are not used in calculating overtime or piece rates. Hundreds of thousands of families will find they lose free school meals for one or more of their children and households getting family income supplement will find it cut by 20p for each extra 40p of threshold money.

But the employers are now on the run. Their pay laws mean we’re all allowed to claim the £1.20. And they are allowed to pay us. In every factory, shop, office and schoolroom where the rates haven’t yet been passed over meetings must be held to tell the employer: Pay up or else!

APPLIES

Remember these three key points:

It is not legally necessary for a threshold agreement to be properly negotiated—any employer can decide to pay or not out of his own pocket. He does not have to inform the Pay Board that he has decided to pay cost-of-living rises.

It is not necessary for your boss to have agreed to pay the cost-of-living rise before the price index trigger point (19.6) is reached on Friday. You can go in any time—so Phase Three tests and Code No 178 is in no position to demand that he pay up. This applies whatever the size of the company. It also applies whenever your last wage rise was paid, whether a month or a year ago, or even if it has not been signed yet.

The Code says payments should be made with effect from the first full pay period after the date of publication of the retail price index (in one week or one month), so press for payment now!

Leyland and the TGWU: Clean-up or dust-up?

OXFORD—Alun Thorne’s chances of being re-instated as a shop steward in the Leyland Leyland Coxley plant have not been increased by the findings of the senior enquiry.

The Transport Union Midlands Region Number Five investigated the company’s charges against Thorne and found no basis completely in the clear. In fact they positively suggest that the plant’s record of bad industrial relations is due to the company’s production at all costs mentality.

But that is not all they have to say. They report that the senior steward, Bob Fryer, had once ‘openly encouraged minority groups of members who voted against the return to work to stay out and go home.’ Also they report that very few workers participated in the Life of the branch and that many feel they have no say in electing their senior stewards.

The regional committee have concluded that there should be a rule of ‘no conflict’ at the senior stewards and that the system of election for senior stewards should be taken out of the shop stewards’ committee but left to the branch stewards’ committee.

They also argue that at least one union branch should be formed from among the membership of the existing 533 from Leyland.

Both these decisions have been taken by the regional committee and not by the membership. Those branch members working outside the security plant have not been asked if they want a separate branch and the Oxford press was informed of the new elections even before the branch committee.

The regional committee have been much concerned with their public image in ‘cleaning up Coxley’ as in defending Alun Thorne. As a result the whelving and dealing of Brian Mather and Co play right into the company’s hands.

MARCH IN SUPPORT OF JAILED BLACK

LONDON—This Saturday, 3 June, black and white workers will march in protest against the imprisonment of two years of Cecil Sampson, Cecil who worked at Greyer is was convicted on charges of assault and his wife and he were charged with assault—he was charged with attempted murder. The charges were dropped, but Cecil was convicted of possession of explosives.

Tridenten International Socialists are calling the march in support of Cecil Sampson, Malcolm Cumberbatch, a member of the branch outlined some of the reasons. If you point out you get rights, like Cecil did, you could wind up in a few years. All workers get the treatment from time to time—when you are a black worker you get a double dose. It is the duty of all London IS branches to get their members along. And it is essential that trade unionists support it.

Everybody has spent in prison his political condition is getting worse. We must press for his release, an appeal is pending.

The march against police brutality against black people years from Buckenham Common (Tunbridge Wells) 2pm on Saturday 3 June.

The appeal for Cecil Sampson open meeting, Bread donations to CTCF, SAPF assay, 34, Tun- mouth Road, London, B15

THE SHOW-SToppers

LONDON—More than 500 BBC staff are on strike for a reinstatement of all suspended staff. The SIO are members of the National Association of Television and Radio Employees.

Several sections of other unions have joined them in this dispute. This originated from a grading claim involving the NATIVE Workers’ section, the people who work on the sets, on the studio floor and on location.

The ‘show workers’ were working to a 1970 description of their job when they were suddenly suspended by management without consultation with the union.

As far as they are concerned their job description in no way reflects the job which they have actually been doing since management enforced it back in 1970. So when their claim for regrading was turned down they decided to work to rule.

NATITE headquarters attempted to play the whole thing down until matters were Exposed to them to make it an official dispute last Friday.

In addition to unaccounted re-employment without loss of pay, the strikers want an agreement to work to the 1970 terms while regarding talks continue. The disputes may well spread to include other workers. There is growing discontent in the BBC over the management’s arbitrary conduct.

Will Jenkins let them die?

THE four Irish republicans jailed last week after the Laden bomb holings trial have been on hunger strike for three days. Dolours and Marian Price, Hugh Feeney and Gerald Kelly are de- termined to go on hunger strike, to be returned to Ireland to serve their sentences, Labour Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins has refused them a reprieve.

They are dying. Three of the four are no longer being fed at all. the Joint Action Committee for the four said at a press conference Monday, doctors have refused to continue forcing of the sisters or Hugh Feeney.

‘One of the doctors,’ said Clare Price, sister of Dolours and Marian put his hand on Dolours shoulder, ‘has said that they may be died to force feed her he had nearly killed her last time.

Gerald Kelly is still being force fed. The doctors who are force feeding them are doctors who are preparing to go on with barbital treatment. It on the other hand to a chair, clamping the mouth open, force and tube down the throat. This cuts the gums and its unusual the doctors to refuse force feeding, the doctors were determined to go on hunger strike.

This has been sanctioned and approved by the Home Office and Roy Jenkins.

Period

Clare Price described her sister’s condition as ‘she is hanging in there, and her back teeth. Her teeth are still out.

Dolours has lost three stone.

Raham, finally, has had enough.

Gair said that last rites of the Catholic Church were administered to the sisters. This has been refused by Roy Jenkins.

They are losing their sense of reality. They are just trying hard to force them to make a decision for any period. This has got nothing to do with the fact that Ireland is going back to 50 years prison in their own country.

For the last 20 years Roy Jenkins has beened around the country and the House of Commons and the Catholic Church to put the ‘consience’ to the test.

It has been found wanting. He was the man in the House of Commons last week, ‘when the course of the Irish people’ and his decision for a transfer from Brixton becomes necessary’.

It is the duty of all London IS branches to get their members along. Their vote is essential that trade unionists support it.

SCIENTISTS AIDING BRITISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

This Sunday, 3 June, the Joint Action Committee are holding a mass meeting from Speakers Corner to Northumberland, branded as a ‘march for the people’.

The following Sunday the Irish Political Hostages Campaign will be marching.

Scabs International

DUNBAR, North Edinburgh—380 General Post Office and telecommunications workers at Associated Portland Cement are now on strike demanding ‘double time or food money’ of £1 a day.

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